

The Genealogical Services Branch serves its diverse clientele in various ways. The Branch develops and maintains a collection of published genealogical reference materials. This collection, which has been described by Milton Rubincam, the dean of American genealogists, as small but excellently chosen, consists of approximately 6,500 titles; 40 periodicals, including complete runs of the major genealogical periodicals; 22 file drawers of pamphlets, etc., and approximately 10,000 reels of microfilm. The major part of this microfilm consists of the complete census of approximately 30 states.

This collection enables residents of North Carolina to do at least basic genealogical research. An example of this type of material is our extensive collection of census indexes and microfilm. A second area of concentration in the collection is that of material specifically related to families who lived in North Carolina and the places from which they came and to which they migrated. For example, our numerous genealogies of North Carolina families. As considered necessary, the librarians develop specialized finding aids, such as the subject index to North Carolina genealogical periodicals, to provide patrons greater accessibility to the materials in the collection. The librarians in the Branch serve as consultants by helping researchers to develop a plan of research by sharing their specialized knowledge of migration routes, areas of ethnic settlement, etc., and, in many cases, by frankly teaching basic research techniques such as how to read a census or how to abstract a deed. The Branch is open to the public six days a week for a total of 56½ hours.

In addition to serving patrons who visit the library, the Genealogical Services Branch has an interlibrary loan program designed to make available to all citizens of North Carolina through their local libraries the North Carolina census records and the core collection of North Carolina county records. This